

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, beginning at line 2, please replace the title with the new title as follows:

--METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR TRANSPORTING MEDIA GATEWAY CONTROL COMMANDS USING HIGH-LEVEL DATALINK CONTROL (HDLC) PROTOCOL--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6, as follows:

--In some instances, it may be desirable to replace legacy PSTN network elements, such as remote switching systems, with new network elements, such as IP-capable media gateways, to provide enhanced services to subscribers located in remote areas. However, in areas where separate data and PSTN communications facilities have not evolved, the management of sophisticated network elements, such as media gateways, cannot easily be accomplished using signaling protocols standardized for media gateways. For example, media gateway control protocols, such as [[MCGP]] MGCP and MEGACO are typically transmitted to media gateways over data networks using UDP/IP. Conventional telecommunications signaling links interconnecting central offices with remote switching equipment used proprietary transport protocols unsuitable for carrying media gateway control commands.--